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Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-01 OMB-01 /041 R

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---------- 117559
R 192105Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TH

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT COTTON CONTRACTS

REF: A. BANGKOK 19702; B. BANGKOK 19512; C. TAIPEI
7376

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY EFFORTS TO DATE BUT DISAPPOINTED IN LACK OF AFFIRMATIVE RTG DIRECT ACTION IN ENSURING L/C'S OPENED. STEPS CONTEMPLATED BY ROC (REF C) REPRESENTS POSITIVE POLICY TO MEET PROBLEMS UTILIZING FULL RESOURCES OF GOVERNMENT. IN KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES, CCC CREDIT HAS BEEN REDISTRIBUTED TO ENCOURAGE CONTRACT COMPLIANCE. WE BELIEVE SIMILAR LINES OF ACTION BY RTG WOULD GO LONG WAY IN RESOLVING THIS THORNY ISSUE.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RECENTLY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM AMERICAN COTTON SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL TO REVIEW ON COUNTRY BASIS OVERDUE SHIPMENTS.
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ENCOURAGING OF ALL, BUT AGREEMENT REACHED MORE TIME SHOULD

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BE GIVEN FOR OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO REACH FRUITION. HOWEVER, IF SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT IS NOT EVIDENT WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO FORCE IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION.

3. WE WISH AGAIN TO URGE EMBASSY TO UNDERLINE AT HIGHEST LEVELS RTG SERIOUSNESS IN WHICH USG VIEWS PRESENT SITUATION. IF WE ARE FORCED TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FROM PRESENT DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES, BOTH PARTIES IN LONG RUN CAN LOSE.

4. WE ARE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY ASSESSMENT ROLE BANGKOK BANK CHAIRMAN CHIN SOPHONPHANIT AND POSSIBLY OTHER FINANCIAL FIGURES PLAYING AT PRESENT IN PLACING OBSTACLES TO RESOLUTION THIS ISSUE. EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR CONSIDERATION ON POSSIBLE POINTS ECONOMIC/POLITICAL LEVERAGE WHICH MIGHT BE EMPLOYED ALSO WELCOMED.

5. RE PARA 3 REFTEL A, IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO CONCLUDE THAI MILLS ARE HONORING LARGER PERCENTAGE OF CONTRACTS. ACCORDING USDA, DECEMBER 5 FAS REPORT INDICATES ONLY RPT ONLY NUMBER OF BALES SHIPPED FROM US TO THAILAND FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24. THERE IS NO RPT NO WAY TO DETERMINE IF ALL OR ANY OF THE BALES SHIPPED IN THAT PERIOD ARE IN FULFILLMENT OF OUTSTANDING DELINQUENT CONTRACTS. FURTHER-MORE, SINCE COTTON SHIPPING SEASON BEGAN, TOTAL SHIPMENTS AMOUNT TO ONLY ABOUT 10,000 BALES OF TOTAL BALE COMMITMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 127,008. HENCE WE ARE BY NO MEANS OUT OF THE WOODS. KISSINGER

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